Effect of Bhopal Gas incident on employees of Mandala Balaghat Grameen Bank

1836. SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that 18 employees of Mandala-Balaghat Grameen Bank were affected by the Bhopal gas incident and have become blind ; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to rehabilitate them ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have reported that thirty employees of Mandala-Balaghat Grameen Bank were undergoing a training course at Bhopal at the time of Gas leak. Only three of the participants from this Grameen Bank had submitted applications stating that they were affected by the Gas leak. Their applications were duly forwarded to the State Government. The Grameen Bank has reported that the eye sight of one of the three applicants was diminishing and the other one was suffering from chest pain. It has further been reported that the State Government have directed all District Collectors to make available free treatment in Government hospitals in the State to gas affected persons.

Award of National Industrial Tribunal for Regional Rural Bank staff

1837. SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESHWARI :
SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Award of National Industrial Tribunal relating to the Regional Rural Bank staff, is binding and final ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for which Government have not yet notified the Award through a Gazette Notification ;

(c) what steps have so far been taken by Government to implement the Award ; and

(d) what is the time schedule by which Government will implement this Award ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) In terms of Government Resolution dated 26-11-1987 constituting the National Industrial Tribunal for deciding pay, allowances and other benefits to the employees of Regional Rural Banks, the decisions of the said Tribunal shall be final and binding.

(b) to (d) The award made by the Tribunal is under legal scrutiny at present.

Appointment-cum-Promotion Rules of Regional Rural Banks staff

1838. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Appointment-*cum*-Promotion Rules of Regional Rural Banks staff have been approved by Parliament and it is still effective ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for which some of the sponsoring banks have advised in writing to their sponsored Regional Rural Banks not to give effect or take any action in the matter of promotion till the date of implementation of Award ;

(c) whether Government have issued any such directive to the sponsoring Banks or Regional Rural Banks to ignore the Promotion Rules

approved by Parliament and issued by Government on 28-9-1988 ; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) Regional Rural Banks (Appointment and Promotion of Officers and other Employees) Rules, 1988 made by the Government on the 28th September, 1988, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 29 of the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976 (21 of 1976), read with Section 17 thereof, are effective from the same date.

(b) Information is being collected and to the extent possible, will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Kerala High Court's judgement about promotional aspects for Regional Rural Bank staff

1839. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the Kerala High Court has given its judgement to ensure promotion under 'Non-selection Rule' for Regional Rural Bank staff;

(b) if so, whether Government have amended the Promotion Rule accordingly ; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Regional Rural Banks (Appointment and Promotion of Officers and other employees) Rules, 1988 were made on the 28th September, 1988. Government has received proposals for amendment of certain provisions of these rules. The Kerala High Court judgement relating to promotions of Regional Rural Bank staff will be duly taken into consideration along with the other proposals at the appropriate time.

Explosion in the furnace of Bhilai Steel Plant

1840. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was an explosion in a blast furnace of the Bhilai Steel Plant and hot liquid metal spewed out of the blast furnace in large quantities ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the total loss suffered and the cause of the explosion ;

(d) the number of workers injured and died ;

(e) whether any financial assistance has been given to those injured and to the next of kin of those died ; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI) : (a) and (b) On August 4, 1990, while Blast Furnace No. 7 was being opened for tapping, it was observed that metal was oozing out between upper hearth bottom cooler No. 4 and coolers No. 3 and 4. This led to the hearth breakout at Blast Furnace No. 7 and spillage of hot metal.

(c) There was a spillage of about 50 tonnes of metal and some quantity of slag. The total value of the